

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

AGR-10 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-04 /044 W

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R 161516Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6407

UNCLAS MADRID 5483

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SP

SUBJECT: CUSTOMES PROBLEMS OF US WHISKEY

REF: DEPT A-2804

1. EMBOFF HAS SPOKEN WITH ANTONIO CASTANEDA, CHIEF OF SECTION, ON DIRECTOR GENERAL GOMEZ LOPEZ STAFF AS LATTER HAS BEEN ON EXTENSIVE TRIP OUTSIDE SPAIN AND WILL NOT RETURN TO MADRID UNTIL MID-AUGUST. MR. CASTANEDA WAS FAMILIAR WITH SUBJECT PROBLEM BUT SAID APRIL 20 LETTER FROM THE DISTILLED SPIRITS COUNCIL OF US (DISCUS) WAS IN THE HANDS OF INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE (COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AMONG OTHERS) DRAFTING PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON IMPORTS OF US WHISKEY. IN VIEW OF RECENT SPANISH POLITICAL EVENTS. CASTANEDA SAID HE COULD NOT ESTIMATE WHEN LEGISLATION WOULD BE PROMULGATED. HOWEVER, WITH RECEIPT OF SPECIFICATIONS FROM DISCUS, CASTANEDA FORESAW NO PROBLEMS IN PREPARATION OF LEGISLATION AND SUBMISSION TO THE CORTES FOR PASSAGE. WHILE SPAIN HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO LIMIT IMPORTATION OF LUXURY PRODUCTS DUE TO ITS SEVERELY ADVERSE BALANCE OF TRADE, CASTANEDA SAID US WHISKEY IMPORTS WERE NOT SIGNIFICATION NOR DID THEY COMPLETE WITH LOCAL PRODUCTS.

2. RE INTERIM PERIOD PRIOR TO PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION COVERING US WHISKEY, CASTANEDA SAID NEXT OPENING OF QUOTA FOR WHISKEY IMPORTS WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER AND HE URGED THAT ALL SPANISH IMPORTERS OF US SPIRITS SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. CASTANEDA OPINED THAT

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THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM FOR SUCH LICENSE APPROVALS FOR US

WHISKEY IMPORTS.

3. RE JACK DANIELS SHIPMENT HELD IN BARCELONA SINCE LAST YEAR, CASTANEDA RECOMMENDED THAT IMPORTER THIS SHIPMENT SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR IMPORT LICENSE AS SOON AS QUOTA OPENED IN SEPTEMBER.

4. EMBASSY WILL PURSUE THIS MATTER WITH GOMEZ LOPEZ UPON HIS RETURN TO MADRID AND WILL REPORT FURTHER.  
STABLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CUSTOMS DUTIES, BOURBON WHISKEY, IMPORT CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MADRID05483  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** vogelfj  
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**Review Date:** 26 FEB 2004  
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